

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25719 01 OF 02 032020Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-07 L-03 SS-15 /045 W

----- 116560

R 031958Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3801

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25719

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR STYLES (EB/AV)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ECAC, XT, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CHARTER TALKS

REF: (A) PARIS 25479, (B) PARIS 25568

1. RCAA HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS ON ECAC CHARTER PROBLEM WITH MENGES DURING LATTER'S STAY IN PARIS, BUT WAS NOT PRESENT DURING MENGES' MEETINGS WITH DOZ AND ABRAHAM REPORTED REFTEL (A), WHICH WAS DICTATED TO US FROM AIRPORT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THOSE MEETINGS AND JUST PRIOR MENGES' DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA. NOR WERE SCENARIOS OUTLINED REF A AND REF B DISCUSSED WITH RCAA BEFOREHAND. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO FEEL COMPELLED ADVANCE CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL TO DEPT. AS IT FORMULATES ITS POSITION.

2. MAKING "LAST EFFORT" (REF B) TO LINE UP BILATERAL NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED WHILE ACCEPTING ECAC PROPOSAL MEET ON OCT. 22-23 WOULD, OF COURSE, SIMPLY FURTHER AROUSE ECAC SUSPICION OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES ON OUR PART AND ALSO PLACE IN QUESTION--AND WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION--OUR GOOD FAITH. THIS WOULD SIMPLY EXACERBATE, AND NOT ASSUAGE, VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 25719 01 OF 02 032020Z

FACTORS THAT MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO "PAST HISTORY".

WISDOM OF THIS TACTIC IS ALL THE MORE QUESTIONABLE SINCE WE ARE FIRMLY CONVINCED, AND SO INFORMED MENGES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS (AND MOST RECENTLY IN LAST PHONE CONVERSATION PRIOR HIS TALKS WITH DOZ AND ABRAHAM), THAT WE CANNOT BREAK ECAC SOLIDARITY NOW AND SUCCEED IN SCHEDULING BILATERALS PRIOR MULTILATERAL TALKS; HENCE, IT WOULD BE FRUITLESS AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO PERSIST IN TRYING TO DO SO.

3. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE FROM REF (A) THAT ABRAHAM SUGGESTED TO MENGES THAT PROPOSED PHONE CALL FROM ROBSON OR O'MELIA INCLUDE EXPRESSION WILLINGNESS TO FIX DATES FOR RESUMPTION TRILATERAL TALKS IN EARLY 1976. MENGES WAS UNAWARE, SINCE RCAA DID NOT TELL HIM, THAT RCAA HAD FLOATED WITH DOZ FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY, AS "PERSONAL" SUGGESTION (FOLLOWING TELCON WITH STYLES), IDEA OF COMPROMISE WHEREBY ECAC ACCEPTANCE OF EARLIER DATE FOR MULTILATERAL TALKS TO SUIT OUR CONVENIENCE MIGHT BE LINKED WITH US ACCEPTANCE OF DATE FOR NEXT ROUND OF TRILATERAL TALKS ON MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT. WE INDICATED TO DOZ THAT IF IDEA COMMENDED ITSELF, IT SHOULD COME TO US AS AN ECAC INITIATIVE. (WE DID NOT INFORM MENGES BECAUSE UPON HIS ARRIVAL PARIS HE HAD TOLD US THAT CAB HAD HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT ECAC AND WHETHER PARTICIPATE IN MULTILATERAL TALKS, AND MUCH SKEPTICISM PERSISTED IN CAB RE CONCEPT OF MULTILATERAL CHARTER AGREEMENT. WE THEREFORE DID NOT TAKE MENGES INTO OUR CONFIDENCE ON THE ABOVE POINT IN ORDER NOT PREJUDGE ANY EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS DEPT. MIGHT HAVE TO ENGAGE IN WITH CAB SHOULD ECAC BE INTERESTED IN "COMPROMISE" WE PROPOSED TO DOZ.) DOZ REPORTED BACK THAT HE HAD SOUNDED OUT KEY ECAC MEMBERS, INCLUDING FRANCE, ON RCAA'S "PERSONAL" SUGGESTION, BUT THEY HAD VETOED IT ON GROUNDS, HE SAID, THAT FOR ECAC THE TWO ISSUES-- TRILATERAL TALKS AND FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL TALKS WITH US--WERE NOT LINKED. HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM REF (A) THAT THE IDEA DID INDEED COMMEND ITSELF TO ABRAHAM AND HE ENDEAVORED THROUGH MENGES TO EXTRACT THIS CONCESSION UNILATERALLY FROM CAB, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 25719 01 OF 02 032020Z

WITHOUT ANY ASSURANCE IN ADVANCE THAT IN RESPONSE ECAC WOULD IN FACT AGREE TO MOVE MEETING DATE FORWARD TO ACCOMMODATE US. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WOULD RISK GIVING UP GRATUITOUSLY WHAT WE NOW CAN STILL USE AS LEVERAGE.

4. WE WILL BE VERY SURPRISED, DOZ NOTWITHSTANDING, IF DURING MULTILATERAL TALKS WE DO NOT HEAR MUCH FROM

ECAC SIDE ABOUT NEED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH NEGOTIATIONS

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25719 02 OF 02 032018Z

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ACTION EB-07

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----- 116645

R 031958Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3802

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ON MULTILATERAL CHARTER AGREEMENT. ABRAHAM HIMSELF HAS NOW TIPPED OFF THAT INTEREST. EXPRESSION OF READINESS BY US DEL DURING THOSE TALKS TO RECOMMEND FAVORABLY TO WASHINGTON RESUMPTION OF TRILATERAL TALKS IN EARLY 1976 OR EVEN TO AGREE ON A WELL- PREPARED AD REFERENDUM BASIS TO SPECIFIC DATES MIGHT PROVE TO BE HELPFUL IN GETTING ECAC TO ACCEPT OTC RULE ON WHICH WE KNOW THEY HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS. IT MIGHT BE GOOD TACTICS TO LET ECAC WRING THIS CONCESSION FROM US AS FACE-SAVER, IF NEEDED, IN EXCHANGE FOR WHATEVER WE WANT THEM TO AGREE TO IN THOSE TALKS.

5. FOR ROBSON OR O'MELIA NOW TO RESPOND TO ABRAHAM SUGGESTION AND PHONE VERES OR DOZ TO IMPART MESSAGE AS INDICATED REF B WOULD ALSO BE OVERLY DEFENSIVE GESTURE ON OUR PART, IT SEEMS TO US. AND ALSO A LITTLE HUMILIATING.

6. MENGES' REFERENCE TO ERRORS OF "PAST HISTORY" IN OUR RELATIONS WITH ECAC PROBABLY STEMS AS MUCH FROM IMPRESSIONS HE GAINED IN TALKS WITH RCAA THAN IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ABRAHAM AND DOZ. WE HAD STRESSED WHAT WE SEE AS NEED FOR CLOSER AND MORE FREQUENT INFORMAL DIALOGUES WITH ECAC AS MEANS

OF COMPARING VIEWS ON SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL CONCERN
AND ANTICIPATING PROBLEMS OF THE KIND WITH WHICH WE
WERE NOW CONFRONTED. THIS WOULD IMPROVE CLIMATE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 25719 02 OF 02 032018Z

FOR COOPERATION AS WELL AS MAXIMIZE CHANCES FOR
INFLUENCING ECAC POSITIONS. WE WERE OF COURSE
HERE USING MENGENS AS A CONDUIT TO GET THESE VIEWS
BACK TO THE CAB IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE ITS OWN
THINKING AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS COOPERATION WITH ECAC.

7. WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW UNDER WHAT CONSTRAINTS
DEPT. IS OPERATING THAT LIMIT FLEXIBILITY IN
DETERMINING OUR NEGOTIATING CALENDAR, IT DOES SEEM
TO US THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE THE BEST WAY OUT
OF PRESENT DILEMMA IS FOR US TO AGREE TO MEET WITH
ECAC ON OCT. 22-23 (EVEN IF CAB PARTICIPATION CANNOT
BE AT A HIGH LEVEL) AND THEN TO SCHEDULE BILATERALS
IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. WE CAN ONLY REAP DIMINISHING
RETURNS IF WE PERSIST IN WHAT HAS ALREADY BECOME A
CONFRONTATION WITH ECAC.
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